# Campaign for Labor Rights (CLR)

CLR is a loose coalition of unions and other organizations. Unions such as UNITE (textile workers), the United Farm Workers (UFW) and the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE) are joined by several groups with interests in labor rights and human rights. The coalition also includes faith-based groups such as the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (NICWJ). The theme that unifies this coalition is an emphasis on child labor, exploitation of women, and the inhuman conditions in sweatshops.

**Case Specific Information**

In this case, CLR delegates the major decision-making role to COLSIBA (Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Sindicatos Bananeros), the coordinating organization of Latin American banana workers' unions representing some forty trade unions in eight countries.

**Frame**

GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE (see **Resource Kit, Globalization Frames**)

**Access Rule**

The following team has automatic access: **Govt. of Plantanoguay**. Other teams require your permission to meet with you.

**Success Indicators**:

**Labor Rights (LR)**: This begins at 100 and is raised by actions that improve job conditions and human rights for workers. It is lowered by actions that make job conditions and human rights worse for workers.

**Global Poverty Reduction (GPR)**: This index measures the percentage of people in each country who are living below the subsistence level. It begins at 100 and is raised by actions that decrease the number of people living in poverty and is lowered by actions that increase the number.

**Popular Support (PS)**: This begins at 100 and is raised by actions that increase financial and political support for CLR by allies and potential supporters. It is lowered by actions that decrease financial and political support for CRL by allies and potential supporters.

**Overall Success** = (LR + GPR + 2PS) / 4

**Recommended to Print from Resource Kit**:

You should make hard copies of the following parts of the Resource Kit to read ahead of time or bring with you to the game sessions:

*** Glossary of Technical Terms
*** GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE frame
*** Zones of Action

**Notes**:

Jarol B. Manheim (2001) *The Death of a Thousand Cuts* (Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates), pp. 130-31, describes the Campaign for Labor Rights. He writes:

"The theme that unifies many of the CLR campaigns is the emphasis on child labor, exploitation of women, and the inhuman conditions in sweatshops, all set against the unwillingness of prominent companies to accept responsibility for the working conditions imposed by their suppliers. From a strategic perspective, this thematic clearly establishes CLR campaigns on the moral high ground. . . In many instances, that is a legitimate exercise. However, the reliance on this theme also masks other, less altruistic interests, some economic and others political. It is clear, for example, that UNITE has a vested interest in raising the cost of production in low-wage markets to render domestic American production more competitive; it also has an interest in punishing companies that move jobs overseas."

## CLR Action Options

The following action options are available. You may adopt as many as you choose or none at all.

___ I. Call a strike of banana workers at Poquita banana plantations in Plantanoguay.

___ II. Call for a worldwide labor boycott on the shipping and unloading of bananas exported from Ecuador.

___ III. Call for a worldwide labor boycott on the shipping and unloading of Poquita bananas.

___ IV. Sponsor a tour by PPM representatives to gain international support for the land reform effort and the organization of producer cooperatives to produce bananas in Plantanoguay. (Requires agreement of PPM.)

V. The WTO has scheduled a meeting of its ministers in Toronto, Canada. If there are sufficient participants, there will be a mass demonstration in Toronto at the time of the WTO meeting. If such a demonstration takes place, the hotels and meeting place of the delegates will be protected by a police cordon, barring access to anyone without passes. You have the following action options (choose one or more):

___ Va. Decline to participate in the Toronto demonstrations.

Participate in the Toronto demonstrations, urging our supporters to participate in the following action zones:

___ Vb. Green zone activities. This includes participating in legal demonstrations and marches in areas approved by authorities, participating in rallies and seminars, and other legal activities including non-disruptive street theater. Specify the activities:

___ Vc. Yellow zone activities. This includes other strictly non-violent activities that may involve some disruption of traffic and free movement of people. Specify the activities:

___ Vd. Red zone activities. This includes activities that are illegal and not strictly non-violent including those that are confrontational and intended to disrupt normal life. Specify the activities:

___ Ve. We will make no recommendation but will leave it to individual participants to decide in which zones of activities they will participate.

___ VI. Other (specify): [1]

[1] You should check with the game coordinator who will rule whether such an action would be possible in the real world.

## CLR Press Release

(This should be written on the assumption that the details of the scenario itself are already known and have been reported earlier. You should focus on the actions you have taken during Phase Three that you wish to publicize – and, if relevant, possible action that you might have taken and did not. You should emphasize those actions of your own and of others that you hope will raise your relevant success indicators.)

# CLR Broadcast Rating Form

The CLR monitors all broadcasts:

*WUSA* Notes on coverage:

1. Were the actions of the CLR covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.
_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.
_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. Did coverage show the implications of actions for human rights, and labor rights for workers in the U.S. and other countries?

_____ a. Gave significant attention to the implications for human rights and labor rights.
_____ b. Mixed, with some attention but not a lot.
_____ c. Little or no attention to the significance for human rights and labor rights.

*EuroPress* Notes on coverage:

1. Were the actions of the CLR covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.
_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.
_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. Did coverage show the implications of actions for human rights, and labor rights for workers in the U.S. and other countries?

_____ a. Gave significant attention to the implications for human rights and labor rights.
_____ b. Mixed, with some attention but not a lot.
_____ c. Little or no attention to the significance for human rights and labor rights.

(CLR Broadcast Rating continued)

*Liberation Press:* Notes on coverage:

1. Were the actions of the CLR covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.
_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.
_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. Did coverage show the implications of actions for human rights and labor rights for workers in the U.S. and other countries?

_____ a. Gave significant attention to the implications for human rights and labor rights.
_____ b. Mixed, with some attention but not a lot.
_____ c. Little or no attention to the significance for human rights and labor rights.